Am Science
Coast Survey

Washington Dec. 9. 1848

Dear Sir,

I at length send you my manuscript on the Coast Survey, concerning which I wrote to you some weeks since, soliciting your aid and countenance in procuring its publication in the Merchants' Magazine, or in some other respectable journal of extensive circulation in the Metropolis —

May I beg, in addition to the original requirement that you will take the farther trouble of overlooking it yourself — I have in the first place, perhaps improperly, given it the character of an editorial article, a habit which I have acquired from my intercourse with some other journals — Should this be found objectionable to the Editor of the Merchants Magazine, or be thought to impose upon him too great a responsibility, a slight change in the verbiage, in the neighborhood of page 4 will entirely obviate it — This change I beg you to make if necessary.

I regret extremely that the article has not been more fairly written out, but it has been produced among a variety of teasing and contradictory ~~occu~~ occupations, and when I have been my own copyist, the second writing has been generally worse written and more blurred and ~~blotted~~ blotted

blotted than the first — It being rather difficult to copy one's own writing, without taking more liberties with it than we should feel ourselves authorized to do with the writing of any one else —

The object of the paper (it is but fair and necessary to state it to you) is to call through the press an investigation now contemplated to be made into the affairs of the Coast Survey — in making which it is thought by those most deeply concerned, that the mere intimation of the points deserving notice will go far in producing the necessary remedial applications by the Legislature — In attempting to use the press here, in Philadelphia and in Boston we have found it already subsidized or in the interest of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, and our only hope is to find some where, (in New York if possible) an editor who will examine the subject for himself and take the responsibility of presenting it properly to the Public

I have been very careful as the facts stated in this paper having referred exclusively to the Documents from which they have been furnished — I also send accompanying this the last report of the Superintendent which the Editor may refer to for his own satisfaction —

I should like much to know the publication made in the Magazine for January, but if this be impossible, it should at latest appear in the number for the ensuing month — At any rate it is very desireable that we should know soon whether it is to appear or not — It is possible that some portions of it may be deemed too harsh and personal, if so I will give you full authority to amputate them, but it must not be deprived altogether of pigmancy, else it will lose the consideration which it is important to procure for it.

Should the Editor reject it altogether let me know it as soon as you can and also advise me whether its publication can be effected in any other metropolitan journal — I shall be most thankful for any service you may be able to render me in regard to it, as it is an affair which I have much at heart —

Very truly Yours

J. Ferguson

Rev^d George Bush

New York

On overlooking my table just now I find I have only one Report of the Superintendent belonging to myself, (that for 1845) which I send — The Editor should he wish to peruse them will no doubt be able easily to find them among the Congressional Documents